

Remarks

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims. Certain of the claims have been cancelled; Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a divisional application or applications.

Rejection/Objections to the claims

Claim 26 is rejected as reciting "a polynucleotide encoding..." which allegedly encompasses the polynucleotide as it occurs in nature. Claims dependant thereon, claims 29, 32, and 35, are objected to as depending on a rejected claim. Applicants have amended claim 26 to recite an "isolated" polynucleotide; the remaining claims, being dependant thereon, incorporate this amendment. This amendment is believed to address the rejection and objection; accordingly, Applicants request that they be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 2, 7, 10, 13, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are now pending in the application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions or concerns about the present claims, she is asked to contact the undersigned at the direct dial number given below, to facilitate prosecution and speed allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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